

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE FIELD OF ENGLISH

The doctor of philosophy (PhD) in English features areas of strength (<https://english.columbian.gwu.edu/areas-strength/>) in American literature and culture, British and postcolonial studies, crip/queer studies, and medieval and early modern studies. Within each of these areas, students are invited to construct their own specializations and methodologies, ranging from sociohistorical angles to digital humanities and film studies.

Doctoral-level seminars are small, encouraging discussion and equal participation. Seminar presentations are modeled on conference papers, and many program students have turned their coursework into conference presentations and articles that are suitable for publication in scholarly journals.

Visit the program website (<https://english.columbian.gwu.edu/phd-english/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

Admission      Fall – December 1  
deadlines:

Standardized The general test of the GRE test is recommended, but  
test scores:      not required.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the program are:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 7.0 with no individual score below 6.0; or
- TOEFL: 600 on paper-based or 100 on Internet-based; or
- PTE Academic: 68

Recommendations Three (3) recommendations  
required:

Prior academic records: Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission. If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

Statement of purpose: In an essay of 250 – 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field. Include your academic objectives, research interests, and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application. If you are applying for an assistantship or fellowship, you should also describe any teaching experience you have had.

Writing Sample: 10-20 pages; this should be critical/scholarly work rather than creative writing.

International applicants only: Please follow this link - <https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants> (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/international-graduate-applicants/>) - to review the International Applicant Information carefully for details on required documents, earlier deadlines for applicants requiring an I-20 or DS-2019 from GW.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Office of Graduate Studies  
The George Washington University  
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 107  
Washington DC 20052

For additional information about the admissions process visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (<https://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate-admissions-faq/>) page.

Contact:

askccas@gwu.edu  
202-994-6210 (phone)

Hours: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationtext>).

Students must maintain a minimum grade-point average of 3.5.

72 credits in required courses.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
ENGL 6100	Introduction to Literary Theory	
A comprehension exam in a language approved by the department.		

A qualifying (oral) examination and a field (written) examination.

A dissertation proposal after the field exam.

Each student plans a program of studies in consultation with the department advisor and a committee of the graduate faculty.

**Dissertation Research (6-24 credits)**

ENGL 8999      Dissertation Research

A dissertation on an approved topic, directed by a member of the department's graduate faculty, and completed by the end of the fifth year of study.